

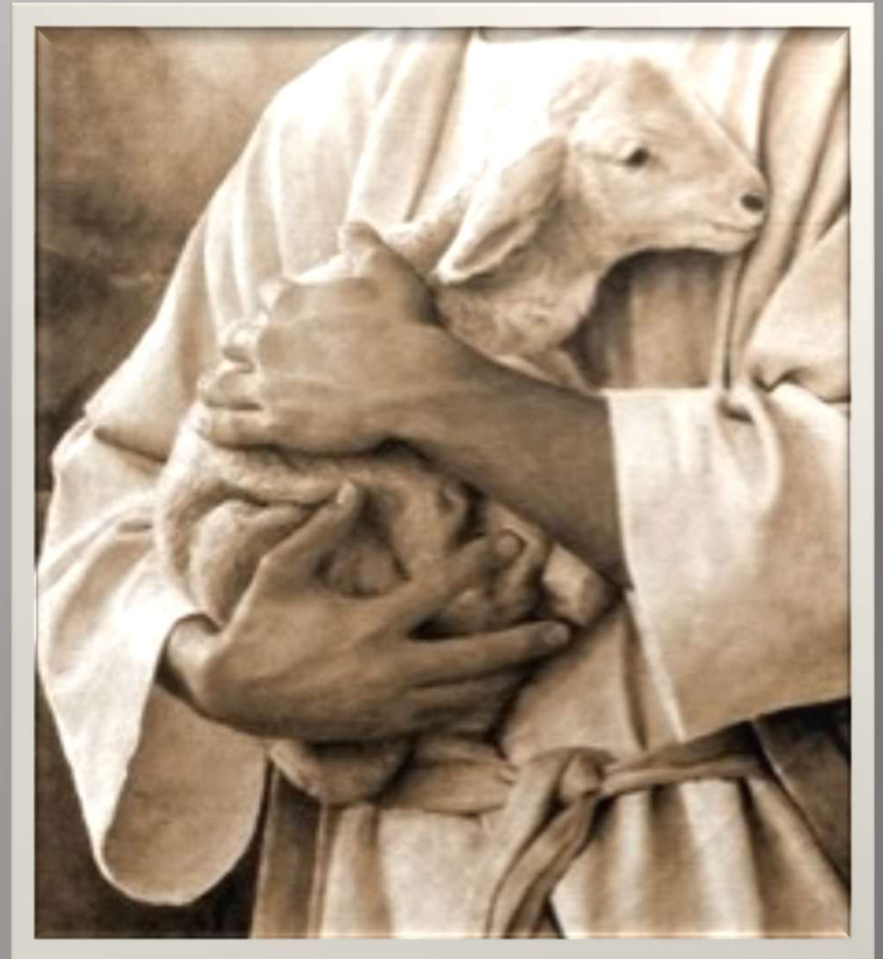
**“Unconditional”**

By Nancy Clark



[www.Laymanointing.files](http://www.Laymanointing.files)

# **“God’s Unconditional Favor”**



# I. Favor Defined

- Bakers Evangelical Dictionary of Theology

“Finding favor means gaining approval, acceptance, or special benefits or blessings. There is also a close association among favor, grace, and mercy, which are sometimes used to translate the same Hebrew and Greek words as *chên* and *charis* . The favor that human beings receive from God depends on his good pleasure and is often extended in response to prayer or righteous living.”

## II. Examples of Biblical Favor

- Gen 6:8: But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.
- Exodus 33:12-13: Moses receives favor and honor from the Lord.
- Deut. 33:16: In Moses' blessing on the twelve tribes he speaks of Joseph's prosperity and fruitfulness as the one who enjoyed God's favor.
- I Samuel 2:26: The boy Samuel grew in favor with God and man.
- Luke 1:30: Gabriel told Mary that she had "found favor with God" and would bear the Christ-child.
- Luke 2:14: When Christ was born the angelic host announced to the shepherds that God would send "peace to men on whom his favor rests" .
- Luke 2:52 At age twelve Jesus enjoyed the favor of God and men as he "grew in wisdom and stature".

### III. Favor in Joseph's Life

Genesis 37:3-5

Jacob: 3. Jacob loved Joseph more than he did any of his other sons, because Joseph was born after Jacob was very old. Jacob had given Joseph a fancy coat 4. to show that he was his favorite son, and so Joseph's brothers hated him and would not be friendly to him.

Genesis 39:4

Potiphar: Joseph found favor in his eyes....and became his attendant. Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he owned.

Genesis 39:21

But the LORD was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison.

## IV. Understanding God's Favor in Your Life

A. God's favor is intended for purpose.

Galatians 3:14

He redeemed us in order that the blessing (favor) given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

## IV. Understanding God's Favor in Your Life

### B. God's favor may provoke trouble.

#### 1. Genesis 37:3-5

Jacob: 3. Jacob loved Joseph more than he did any of his other sons, because Joseph was born after Jacob was very old. Jacob had given Joseph a fancy coat 4. to show that he was his favorite son, and so Joseph's brothers hated him and would not be friendly to him.

#### 2. Genesis 17:33-20

17. So Joseph went after his brothers and found them at Dothan.

<sup>18</sup> They saw him from a distance. Before he reached them, they plotted to kill him. <sup>19</sup> They said to each other, "Look, here comes that master dreamer! <sup>20</sup> Let's kill him, throw him into one of the cisterns, and say that a wild animal has eaten him. Then we'll see what happens to his dreams."



## IV. Understanding God's Favor in Your Life

C. God's favor generates promotion. (Brings you before kings)

Genesis 45:8

<sup>8</sup> So it was not you who sent me here, but God. He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.



## IV. Understanding God's Favor in Your Life

D. God's favor in you ultimately perpetuates blessing to others.

1. Genesis 45:4-7

<sup>4</sup> So Joseph said to his brothers, "Come near to me, please." And they came near. And he said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. <sup>5</sup> And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup> For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. <sup>7</sup> And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors.

## IV. Understanding God's Favor in Your Life

E. God's favor has no expiration date.

1. Psalm 30:5

For his anger is but a moment, and his favor lasts for a lifetime.  
Weeping may endure for the night but joy comes in the morning.

2. Moses spent the first 40 years in the Egyptian palace; the next 40 years as a fugitive in Midian, after which he delivered Israel from Egyptian bondage. Deuteronomy 34:7 (died at 120 yrs after wandering 40 years in the wilderness)

# **“God’s Unconditional Favor”**

